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**Published by:** UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

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UNICEF delivers programmes in partnership with national governments, partners and communities to help ensure that every child lives in a safe and clean environment to meet their basic needs and expands their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF would like to express its deep appreciation to all resource partners including the Government of Australia and the Government of Sweden who have generously contributed to its work on WASH for children globally and in the region.

UNICEF would like to extend particular thanks to partners who provided regional thematic funding including the Japan Committee for UNICEF; the Swedish Committee for UNICEF and the Australian Committee for UNICEF in providing support on the realisation of human rights to water and sanitation, particularly for millions of children and families in vulnerable and difficult situations.

The thematic funding has enabled UNICEF to support countries in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region to strengthen the enabling environments and deliver strategic direct interventions that bring WASH to marginalized children, their families and communities. Thematic funding provides greater flexibility, enables UNICEF to continuously improve the quality of interventions, allows for longer-term planning and makes programmes more sustainable. It reflects the trust that resource partners have in UNICEF’s capacity and ability to deliver quality support under all circumstances and has made possible the results described in this report.

Finally, UNICEF takes this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in us, and in our work for children around the world.
## Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms 5  
Executive Summary 6  
A. Strategic Context 11  
B. Results: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 13  
Safe Water Supply and Climate Resilience 13  
Sanitation 15  
Hygiene 16  
WASH in Institutions 17  
WASH in Emergencies 19  
C. Financial Analysis 30  
D. Challenges 33  
E. Future Workplan 2020 34  
Annex: Human Interest and News Stories 36  
Preparation and Cooperation Bring a Community together in Timor-Leste 36  
Regional Sanitation Expo and Learning in China 39  
Delivering Clean Drinking Water for Children in DPR Korea 42  
Singapore–UNICEF WASH Partnership: Leaving No One Behind 44
## Abbreviations and Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATS</td>
<td>Community Approaches to Total Sanitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>United Kingdom Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPRK</td>
<td>Democratic People’s Republic of Korea</td>
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<td>DRD</td>
<td>Department of Rural Development</td>
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<td>EAP</td>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>EAPRO</td>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
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<td>EMIS</td>
<td>Education Management Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLASS</td>
<td>Global Assessment of Drinking Water and Sanitation Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>IASC</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Standing Committee (for UN coordination of humanitarian assistance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I/NGO</td>
<td>International/non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMP</td>
<td>WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<td>MFI</td>
<td>Microfinance institution</td>
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<td>MHH</td>
<td>Menstrual health and hygiene</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<td>MIS</td>
<td>Management information system</td>
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<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
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<td>ODF</td>
<td>Open-defecation-free</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDR</td>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHATSS</td>
<td>Phased Approach to Sustainable Sanitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROSA</td>
<td>Regional Office for South Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Strategic Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPWS</td>
<td>Solar Powered Water System</td>
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<td>SWA</td>
<td>Sanitation and Water for All</td>
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<tr>
<td>WinHCF</td>
<td>WASH in Health Care Facilities</td>
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<td>WinS</td>
<td>WASH in Schools</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZOD</td>
<td>Zero open defecation</td>
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Executive Summary

Regional Context

The regional context is growingly challenged by climate change with many countries at high risk of climate-related impact. Some countries and territories particularly in the Pacific subregion are facing multiple impacts of climate change that need serious and immediate attention. The subregion also faces the challenge of still having 369 million people without access to basic sanitation services, out of which 52 million still practice open defecation and 165 million people still lack access to basic drinking water, thus resorting to depending on surface water and other unimproved sources. Poor access to WASH services is the key driver of stunting and malnutrition in the region, with some countries fairing much lower than the global stunting average. The region remains one where hygiene practices are very poor. Coupled with these challenges is the public health emergency posed by the outbreak of the coronavirus. This calls for strengthening national systems and hygiene education for preventing and combating the outbreak.

2019 WASH Results Highlights

In 2019, the regional WASH evaluation was completed, outlining UNICEF achievements in WASH in rural areas particularly, and pointed out some key areas of engagement: faecal sludge management, climate resilience, new skills for staff in private-sector engagement and WASH financing, and WASH entrepreneurship. The evaluation recommended increasing regional partnerships in water and sanitation, linking development to humanitarian situations. A management response was developed, and a clear regional WASH and climate-resilient service strategy is being developed.

The regional programme continues to deliver on UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 4, which envisages a world where a child’s environment is conducive to their health, growth and development. This links very well with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 13 on climate action.

SDG monitoring and lack of data: The 2019 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report shows that there is a challenge in the region to have reliable and available data for the SDG ladder. Only seven out of 33 countries have the disaggregated data for water and sanitation according to the JMP ladder on safely managed, basic, unimproved and open defecation/surface water. Without reliable data availability and accessibility to improve WASH sector planning, monitoring and decision making, many countries in the region will find it difficult to achieve SDG 6. In this regard, UNICEF conducted an SDG 6 monitoring training together with the Joint Monitoring Team and has developed a plan to support these countries. The training was attended by the delegates of 14 countries in the region and included supporting some countries in measuring SDG target 6.3, which was not originally part of the JMP mandate. The Joint
Monitoring Team also provided in-country support for SDG 6 monitoring in Fiji, Indonesia and Mongolia focusing on building capacity of country teams for water quality testing and analysis. The monitoring system developed for the sanitation chain has been piloted in Indonesia and there is a prospect to extend this to other countries as resources become available.

The climate-resilient WASH regional assessment on the readiness of East Asia and Pacific countries was completed. The findings show that out of the 12 countries assessed, only four of them have the necessary pre-conditions in place to easily implement climate-resilient WASH programming. At the same time, it was noted that most of the countries in the region are at high risk for 3—4 climate impacts. UNICEF has developed a strategic note to start supporting countries for readiness and is working on policy review for water and sanitation that will encompass climate and resilience intervention. The WASH-bottleneck analysis on climate-resilient WASH has been conducted in many countries including Cambodia, Fiji, Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR), Myanmar and Timor-Leste. There is a prospect of working with other partners to develop WASH-specific national action plans. UNICEF plans to work together with the regional SIDA office in this area.

In menstrual hygiene management (MHM), studies on WASH and gender implications have been conducted in Cambodia and Myanmar. To promote gender equity, menstrual health and hygiene has been increasingly integrated within the school curriculum. At the regional level, the office-led Mobile Phone Period Tracker App – OKY with and for access by adolescent girls has been formally launched. A workshop in Indonesia on the marketing of the human-centred design process engaged more than 560 girls from Indonesia and Mongolia on MHH-related information and requirements for a menstruation app. This workshop was held to provide a better understanding of the social media landscape and to identify some of the social media influencers for the app’s marketing. There is a growing interest from the other regions to pilot the app in the countries for local adaptation of the key features.

The regional office also entered into a partnership with the Criterion Institute to gain a better understanding of the menstrual health markets in East Asia and to explore how innovative finance could be used to enable a more inclusive menstrual health market across the region, with a focus on Cambodia and Indonesia. The findings of this exploration will provide key insights on social and market investment opportunities and partnership modalities for UNICEF to improve the social, economic and educational outcomes of women and girls.

UNICEF continues to reach those left behind in drinking water access. “All peoples, whatever their stage of development and social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs.”

Overall, since the launch of the Strategic Plan for 2018–2021, UNICEF has provided support to more than 1.4 million people who gained access to safe WASH services to date (as of 2019). Of this result, 54 per cent of was achieved in
**emergency contexts.** WASH humanitarian response was one of the largest programmes in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines, reaching more than 750,000 people.

In Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste, at total of 115,327 people were provided with a climate-resilient water service through solar-powered water systems that were either community facilities or multi-use, promoting the renewable energy and contributing to greenhouse gas emission reduction.

During 2019, a total of 3,993 communities were triggered through Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS). Out of this, 1,977 were triggered through UNICEF direct support and a total of 1,513 communities were declared open-defecation-free (ODF) including 639 with direct UNICEF support. The success rate of achieving ODF is 37 per cent and the progress in reducing open defecation was possible due to innovative approaches, such as “smart subsidy” in Cambodia, the “district-wide approach” in Lao PDR, and the “National Sanitation Campaign” in Indonesia.

In terms of hygiene promotion, with UNICEF support, many countries in the region are implementing national or sub-national handwashing programmes and have integrated handwashing as an integral component of their national sanitation strategies and programmes. However, lack of data on hygiene services in schools and health care facilities is a cause for concern, and efforts are being made to support national governments to integrate hygiene-related indicators in national Management Information Systems. COVID-19 prevention strategies will trigger the reinforcement of the hygiene promotion practices.

A growing number of schools are implementing the WASH in Schools (WinS) programme, integrating a Three Star Approach to promote group handwashing among children as a key driver of hygiene behaviour change. As of 2019, child, gender and disabled-friendly WASH facilities have been installed in 1,183 schools with UNICEF direct support, benefitting 139,872 children with equitable access and availability of WASH services. At the same time, menstrual hygiene management has reached 300 schools.

Another notable achievement in 2019 was the successful accomplishment of the 7th WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange (WinS ILE) held in the Philippines from 11–15 November to promote South-South learning between countries in Asia and the Pacific. The Exchange was led by the Department of Education with UNICEF and other partners’ support. The Philippines showcased its progress in strengthening the enabling environment identified at the first learning exchange hosted in the Philippines in 2012. The participants developed, for the first time at an international learning exchange, the ‘Manila Action Agenda for WASH in Schools,’ which includes priority actions for the region to accelerate progress.

For WASH in health care facilities (WinHCF), there is limited data in the region. However, more and more countries are conducting assessments of WASH conditions in health care facilities for advocacy and integration of WinHCF data in the regular Health Management
Information Systems of the governments. In 2019, with UNICEF support, WASH in health care facilities was supported in 58 institutions, and many countries are undertaking assessments of WASH information in health care facilities, which will inform the design of WASH in interventions. Data collected will feed the next generation of WASH in health care facilities JMP reports.

For emergency WASH and coordination at the country level, UNICEF continued to lead, or co-lead WASH Sector Coordination platforms and mechanisms in 10 countries, and played an instrumental role in supporting governments to develop and finalize national sanitation policies, plans and strategies. UNICEF played a key role in coordinating emergency responses, leading or co-leading the WASH Cluster in five countries in the region (DPR Korea, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Philippines). Efforts continued to focus on building capacity at the national and sub-national level for humanitarian response and better promoting integration between humanitarian and development programming.

In 2019, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) made a huge effort to help in strengthening systems and enabling environments to ensure required skill sets to advance and scale up WASH initiatives in the region. More than 500 key WASH sector professionals, including governments, international/non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs) and UNICEF staff, were capacitated through EAPRO-led trainings and workshops on topics of emerging interest. UNICEF also contributed to strengthening knowledge management and evidence-based decision making by continuing to generate regional level flagship publications and documentation of best practices for knowledge exchange and learning.

Looking Forward 2020-2025

In the coming five years, the WASH programme will maintain its focus on the following areas and UNICEF invites you to join us in this effort:

1. Climate resilient WASH programming and reaching the last mile: It was noted during the assessment that one of the remaining key challenges that the WASH sector faces is the availability of data to model the additional climate impact to develop the climate rationale. UNICEF will work together with other institutions to create this platform and a research programme that links climate and WASH-smart technologies. With the private sector and young entrepreneurs, UNICEF will work to prioritize and reinforce the promotion of ‘green’ and ‘climate smart’ solutions in addressing WASH service delivery in households, schools, health care facilities and institutions.

2. WASH financing and private-sector engagement: WASH will continue to expand its collaboration with private-sector partners in several capacities, going beyond funding and supply procurement relationships. The focus of going forward will be on engaging private-sector actors to address product- and financing-related priorities in communities. This includes establishing a Financing Lab in many countries to support the creation of local enterprises in technical and financing structuration.
Among the first countries to have this are Lao PDR and Myanmar.

3. **SDG 6 data availability**: Working with WHO, we will continue supporting countries in developing their monitoring systems that can report on the SDG 6 ladders. This includes country capacity building, monitoring system appraisal and development and equipment to support each country’s data collection and analysis. In countries with existing systems, UNICEF will strengthen the national systems and integrate the SDG 6 indicators in ongoing surveys as much as possible.

4. **Sanitation campaigns and market-based sanitation**: Cambodia, China, Indonesia and the Philippines will constitute our major support in 2020 for accelerating the “End Open Defecation” momentum by adopting a market-based approach to sanitation through leveraging the private sector. Market-based sanitation assessments will be conducted in those countries with national consultation processes.

5. **Strengthen country emergency preparedness and response capacity**: While addressing the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, UNICEF will also support countries in strengthening national and sub-national systems for timely response to disasters and public health emergencies.
A. Strategic Context

With the onset of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, many countries in the EAP region have been striving to better develop and align their policies, strategies, and policies with the vision and targets of SDG 6 in terms of providing safe water and sanitation. Some countries in the region have made considerable progress so far and are re-activating their past experiences and creating new initiatives. In this context, China’s Toilet Revolution, Indonesia’s Sanitation Campaign, Myanmar’s Clean Villages initiatives, and the Philippines’ Sanitation Master Plan have made huge traction in terms of drawing political attention for accelerating progress in sanitation and ending open defecation.

In line with UNICEF’s sanitation game plan and the Strategic Plan’s target, sanitation roadmaps have been developed in 10 countries in the region including in the four target game plan countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, and the Philippines) for ending open defecation. For safe water supply, although huge progress has been made to increase access to water supply, water quality remains a huge concern in most of the countries.

The region has made huge progress in reducing open defecation rates to less than 3 per cent in 2019. Among the 16 countries who have reduced open defecation by 20 per cent points globally, four are in the East Asia and Pacific region including Cambodia (53 per cent), Lao PDR (41 per cent), Indonesia (23 per cent) and Kiribati (20 per cent). There has also been great effort in reducing inequalities in basic sanitation. In Cambodia, for instance, there was an increase of urban coverage of basic sanitation from 46 per cent to 96 per cent from 2000 to 2019 and the gap between richest and poorest was reduced “by over 60 percentage points” over that time. The EAP region has also made substantial progress towards universal access to sanitation with 84 per cent of the population having access to “at least basic” sanitation service. Eight countries in the region are on track to achieve universal basic sanitation at the current rate of progress while acceleration is needed in a few countries.
Despite the considerable progress in improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation, around 369 million people in 2019 were still without access to basic sanitation, and more than 52 million people, mostly poor, still practiced open defecation.\(^1\) With regards to access to safe water supplies, 165 million people lack access to basic drinking water services.\(^2\)

Access to WASH in schools is a cause for concern, with 12 per cent of schools having no drinking water service at all and 32 per cent of schools with no sanitation service at all.\(^3\) Misconceptions and inadequate information about menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) negatively impact upon the lives of many girls. Similarly, poor access to WASH in healthcare facilities continue to have an impact on neonatal deaths, which are mostly preventable.

For increased and sustained progress on SDG 6, the WASH sector needs more funding from donors, domestic sources, the private sector and new financing models. However, the current financial resources available to countries are clearly inadequate. According to the latest Global Assessment of Drinking Water and Sanitation Report (GLASS), 20 countries and territories reported a WASH funding gap of 61 per cent between identified needs and available financing for WASH.\(^4\) Official development assistance covers only a small portion of water sector needs, but it is often critical, acting as a catalyst to leverage additional resources missing in the region.

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1. JMP 2019 Regional Snapshot UNICEF East Asia & the Pacific
2. JMP 2019 Regional Snapshot UNICEF East Asia & the Pacific
3. Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools, Global Baseline Report 2018
4. UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Drinking Water and National Systems to Support Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2019
B. Results: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Using a mix of intervention approaches to drive the results for children, EAPRO extended its technical support and assistance to 12 programme countries in the region including 14 island countries in the Pacific region. The specific support of EAPRO included: (1) support for strengthening service delivery in water, sanitation, hygiene and humanitarian response (2) systems strengthening and capacity building, (3) data and evidence and knowledge management, (4) governance and policy improvement and (5) partnerships and alliance which are also closely linked to the UNICEF change strategies in the 2018–2021 Strategic Plan and WASH strategy (2018–2030) approaches.

Safe Water Supply and Climate Resilience

Increasing Access to Water

In 2019, a total of 0.7 million people were reached by basic water supply in the region increasing access to around 300,000 children including in emergency situations. Major efforts were focused on ensuring lifesaving water supplies in emergencies, water quality and water safety and climate resilience in WASH services in many countries. In Mongolia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste, of the 203,032 people who were reported as having been reached with a water service, 115,327 people were provided with a climate resilient water service, accounting for 57 per cent of the regional water results. This accounts for 3 per cent of the global total of 4.45M, and EAPRO is the third highest region in terms of numbers of countries reporting access to climate resilient water services. Additionally, a total of 17 solar-powered water systems were installed in 2019 in three countries: Cambodia (4), the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea or DPRK (1) and Myanmar (12), all of which were either community facilities or multi-use, thus promoting the use of renewable energy and contributing to greenhouse gas emission reduction. See Box 1 for a description of the solar-powered water supply system in Myanmar.

Box 1. Solar-powered water supply system in Myanmar

UNICEF Myanmar has been working with the Department of Rural Development (DRD) to construct Solar Powered Water Systems (SPWS) in rural, off-grid communities in which communities contribute up to 60 per cent of system costs and are solely responsible for system management thus creating a strong sense of ownership and financial sustainability. This community-based management model and user fee collection system has been successful because of strong community demand and supervision from DRD. Starting in 2012, around 50 new systems with pipe network and water meters have been installed in rural areas, particularly in dry zones of Myanmar. In 2019 alone, 12 new SPWS were installed that benefitted around 77,000 people with climate resilient water supply service. UNICEF aims to upscale this model in collaboration with the DRD to ensure water security for the dry zones in Myanmar.
Box 2. Using data to end open defecation in Cambodia

Data released from JMP in 2019 confirms that Cambodia has made exemplary progress towards improving toilet use. Since 2000, Cambodia’s progress towards safer sanitation is among the fastest in the world – over half the population have stopped practicing open defecation and started using a toilet.

The data and analysis provided by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) is a fantastic resource to the UNICEF Country team who are working to support national targets for the elimination of open defecation by 2025 – a target date 5 years ahead of the global SDG target of 2030.

JMP data helped country team to identify gaps in progress, determine those at risk of being left behind, and focus UNICEF’s support. Based on past trends highlighted by the JMP, while Cambodia is overall ‘on track’ to achieve nearly universal access to basic sanitation, progress in rural areas is insufficient, and the poorest in rural areas are at risk of being left behind.

Based on this analysis, the UNICEF team, with financial support from the UK’s Department for International Development, is working with government partners, NGOs, and the private sector to target those in poor and rural households to improve basic sanitation nationwide. To do this, UNICEF is supporting three main approaches to accelerate sanitation uptake: community, market, and finance-based approaches.

Firstly, the community-based sanitation approaches supported by UNICEF builds on the capacity of existing local government leaders, encouraging them to match their local areas of responsibility to target for achieving open-defecation free areas: from the village level, to larger units of commune, district and province. At each geographical level, detailed work mapping those left behind is followed by door-to-door and meeting-to-meeting efforts by local leaders to achieve results.

Secondly, as part of market-based approaches to sanitation improvement, UNICEF is increasingly engaging with sanitation markets and exploring options for market-strengthening activities to improve the availability and price of toilet supplies and installation services to reduce supply side cost and availability barriers.

Third, in the area of sanitation financing, UNICEF is building on national social protection systems that identify poor households to deliver toilet subsidies through private sector suppliers to the poorest households. This will enable them to buy toilets at a discount, while maintaining market-based sales, delivery channels and commercial viability.

Bringing these approaches together, UNICEF works with partners to strengthen sanitation-enabling systems – the policies, plans, monitoring, and state financing systems that make up the regulatory environment – to shape progress and include those who JMP data suggests might be left behind.
UNICEF and WHO worked together in strengthening regional capacity in SDG 6 target setting and monitoring through regional trainings in March 2019. The Joint Monitoring Team also provided in-country support in SDG 6 monitoring in Fiji, Indonesia and Mongolia in building capacity of country teams on water quality testing and analysis. In Cambodia and Myanmar, the Acceleration of Sanitation and Water for All (ASWAII) programme has shaped the sustainability framework to advance sustained water service delivery. UNICEF EAPRO supported country offices including China, Myanmar and Timor-Leste, in conducting in-country training on WASH Bottleneck Analysis, Accountability and Sustainability in the region benefiting more than 300 UNICEF staff and government officials. UNICEF also completed the study to map the implementation of WASH and climate resilience intervention in the region to further assess countries’ understanding of climatic hazards and risks in WASH service delivery and inform national policies and strategies for integrating climate resilience in the WASH sector.

Sanitation

Eliminating Open Defecation

Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS) continues to be the guiding principle for countries to accelerate sanitation progress in the region working closely with the government and in alignment with the existing national systems. Community-led total sanitation remains to be the unique modality to trigger behaviour change in the WASH programme. Four countries in the region have updated or developed their sanitation policies including the DPRK, which drafted the first ever five-year costed National WASH Sector Implementation Strategy; Myanmar, which drafted its National Sanitation Policy; and the Philippines, which launched the Philippines Approach to Sustainable Sanitation (PhATSS) policy under the Department of Health. Eleven countries in the region have now developed their ODF roadmaps towards achieving open defecation by 2030 including the four countries under the Global Sanitation Game Plan. With regional support, Cambodia and Myanmar, funded through the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) grant, have conducted a baseline for the ASWA-II programme for off-track countries. With regional office technical and financial support, a term of reference to conduct sanitation market assessment has been adopted in four countries with Cambodia and Indonesia commissioning the studies to look into sanitation business models, user preferences, sanitation demand and financing for household sanitation and entrepreneurship around sanitation businesses. The findings of these market assessments will inform policy and programme design for national scale-up and financing.

Community Triggering and Open Defecation Free Status

Although the region still has around 52 million people practicing open defecation, steady progress has been made in reducing this harmful practice. During 2019, a total of 3,993 communities were triggered through CATS, out of which 1,977 were triggered through UNICEF direct support and a total of 1,513 communities were declared ODF including 639 with direct UNICEF support. The success rate of CATS is 37
per cent, which is good considering the complexities and challenges related to reaching the population residing in some of the most challenging terrains in the region.

The progress in reducing open defecation was possible due to some of the innovative approaches adopted in some of the high burden countries, for example, in Cambodia, the use of data has been instrumental in targeting the poor for adopting safe sanitation practices backed by a “smart subsidy” approach adopted by the government with UNICEF support to help poor people buy their latrines at affordable prices. See Box 2 on Cambodia’s story on reducing open defecation.

Similarly, Laos has achieved success with a “district wide approach” in eliminating open defecation, making sanitation “everybody’s business” with a unified and coherent approach at the district level. At the same time, the four high burden countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, and the Philippines) have developed their roadmaps to eliminate open defecation and more private sector sectors are now ensuring affordable sanitation supply chains.

**Hygiene**

Access to basic hygiene services remains one of the main challenges in the region with coverage of basic hygiene service ranging from 25 per cent in Vanuatu to 86 per cent in Viet Nam (see Figure 3).

There is a lack of data on basic hygiene services in schools and health facilities in the region. Efforts have been made in 2019 to support governments in the region to understand the importance of hygiene in infection prevention and control and to mainstream the monitoring of hygiene services in the national information management systems. Many countries in the region with UNICEF support are implementing a national or sub-national level handwashing programme and have integrated handwashing as an integral component of national sanitation strategies and programmes. For example, in Indonesia, the handwashing programme is implemented nationwide under national Sanitation Campaign (STBM) five pillars; in Kiribati, the programme is implemented in some sub-national regions as both WASH in Schools (WinS) and WASH in Health Care Facilities (WinHCF) policies encourage schools, clinics and communities to establish handwashing facilities leading to
behaviour change; in **Papua New Guinea** (PNG), handwashing is implemented in four focused provinces with UNICEF support; in **Timor-Leste**, handwashing with soap is implemented in four municipalities and in **Viet Nam**, UNICEF supported handwashing through integrated community-led total sanitation and WASH in Schools.

UNICEF continues to support the national campaign on handwashing with soap by providing guidance and monitoring frameworks for continued advocacy in this area.

**WASH in Institutions**

**WASH in Schools**

A growing number of schools are implementing a WASH in Schools programme integrating the Three Star Approach to WinS to promote group handwashing among children as a key driver of hygiene behaviour change. As of 2019, with UNICEF direct support, child, gender and disabled-friendly WASH facilities in 1,183 schools have been installed benefitting 139,872 children with equitable access and availability of WASH services. Similarly, more than 2,000 schools are implementing the Three Star Approach to WinS ensuring that all students wash their hands with soap, have drinking water in the classroom and have access to clean, gender-segregated and child-friendly toilets in school every day. Some of the notable progress related to WASH in Schools in the programme countries are summarized in the succeeding paragraphs.

In the **Pacific Islands**, WinS, including MHH activities, is now institutionalized in all priority Pacific Island countries. WinS improvement planning has been institutionalized in a mandatory professional development course for all heads of schools in Fiji. In Solomon Islands, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development launched WinS technical standards to improve the quality of infrastructure, with a pilot conducted in 42 schools in partnership with World Vision International and Live and Learn Environmental Education. Efforts were also made in 2019 to increase the profile of WinS on social media and digital platforms, with handwashing dialogue on television and celebrations across Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia.

In the **Philippines**, UNICEF provided significant technical support to the Department of Education to institutionalize WinS, the Three Star Approach roll-out and the WinS Online Monitoring System. UNICEF and the Department of Education have developed tools and programming to strengthen menstrual health and hygiene. #MeronAko (roughly translated to “I have”) communication and curriculum materials have been developed to help both boys and girls have a better understanding of and confidence in discussing and managing issues around menstrual health and puberty and is now under pilot test in a few schools in the country.

Another notable achievement in 2019 in the **Philippines** was the successful accomplishment of the 7th WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange (WinS ILE) on 11-15 November to promote South-South learning between countries in Asia and the Pacific, led by the Department of Education with UNICEF and other
partners’ support. The Philippines showcased its progress in strengthening the enabling environment identified at the first learning exchange hosted in the Philippines in 2012. For the first time at an international learning exchange, the participants developed the ‘Manila Action Agenda for WASH in Schools’ with priority actions for the region to accelerate progress.

To promote gender equity, menstrual health and hygiene has been increasingly integrated within the school curriculum and progress in this regard is summarized below.

At the regional level, the regional office-led Mobile Phone Period Tracker App, OKY, with and for adolescent girls has been formally launched for access. A workshop on the marketing of the human-centered design processes that engaged more than 560 girls in Indonesia and Mongolia on their MHH related realities and requirements for a girl-centered menstruation app was held in Indonesia to understand the social media landscape and identify some of the social media influencers for the app’s marketing. There is also a growing interest from the other regions to pilot the app in the countries for local adaptation of the app’s key features.

Similarly, the regional office also entered into a partnership with Criterion Institute to understand the Menstrual Health Markets in East Asia and explore how innovative finance can be used to enable a more inclusive menstrual health market across the region, with a focus on Cambodia and Indonesia. The findings of this exploration will provide key insights on social and market investment opportunity and partnership modalities for UNICEF to improve the social, economic and educational outcomes of women and girls.

At the country level, MHH is highly prioritized in the WASH sector discussions and deliberations for integration in the school curriculum and advocacy for addressing myths and barriers related to menstrual health.

In Indonesia, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in publishing the MHH communication strategy. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Religious Affairs to review and improve the MHH comic book in the madrasah (Islamic school) context. The book has been officially endorsed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and 54,700 books were distributed to schools and madrasah in 10 provinces. As part of larger MHH intervention efforts in Tangerang, Bone and Sorong, UNICEF used the human-centered design approach to design the intervention with adolescent girls and boy’s involvement in two districts. A video was developed to capture the process. UNICEF, in collaboration with other development partners and line ministries, celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day in May by conducting both online and off-line campaigns with youth engagement. In addition, the OKY period tracker was tested and launched early this year. MHH materials for women’s prayer groups are being prepared and ready to be tested soon.

In Mongolia, a special website on MHH in schools was developed and maintained in cooperation with the “WASH Action” non-governmental organization (www.namuu.mn) and in 2019, UNICEF supported the establishment of girl-friendly climate-resilient and innovative WASH facilities for remote schools, dormitories and kindergartens in the
three target provinces including MHH facilities.

**WASH in Healthcare Facilities**

In WASH in Healthcare Facilities, there is limited data in the region and more and more countries are conducting the assessment of WASH conditions in the health care facilities for advocacy and integration of WinHCF data in the regular health management information systems of the government. In 2019, with UNICEF support, WASH in Healthcare Facilities was supported in 58 institutions and many countries are undertaking assessment of WASH information in HCF which will inform the design of WASH in HCF interventions in countries. In China, the **Toilet Revolution** was integrated in the WASH in HCF strategy in March 2019. In DPRK, UNICEF has worked with the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Urban Management, the Ministry of Public Health and the Education Commission and trialled a routine monitoring data collection on WASH in Households, School and Health Facilities using core SDG or WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) monitoring indicators. The data was collected through an existing government mechanism. In Fiji, UNICEF supported the completion of data collection on WASH in Healthcare Facilities in 2019. In Kiribati, the HCF assessment just started with improvements to be made in five HCFs in three outer islands, in Laos, the Ministry of Health has developed an Environmental Health Standard for HCF which includes WASH. In PNG, WASH services have been integrated in new health care facility designs. In the Philippines, standards and indicators for hospitals are available and the World Health Organization (WHO) is leading the work with the Department of Health to develop standards, indicators, and a monitoring system to cover lower level HCF and UNICEF is a member of the Technical Working Group. In Solomon Islands enumerators were trained in November 2019 to conduct data collection following established indicators for HCF and in Timor-Leste, WinHCF standards are in draft format following an assessment of the same in 2019.

**WASH in Emergencies**

**Institutional Strengthening and Coordination including Humanitarian Response**

At the regional level, the Regional WASH humanitarian working group was revamped with many WASH partners to coordinate WASH humanitarian response and learning in the region. The regional office is also periodically updating the WASH in Emergencies online toolkit to help countries in accessing resources for strengthening country preparedness and response.

At the country level, the Myanmar WASH programme has demonstrated strong leadership in the WASH humanitarian front leading the WASH Cluster at the national and sub-national level (Kachin, Northern Shan and Rakhine) and extending significant support to the government in strengthening their preparedness capacity. The WASH Cluster has led the design and implementation of several field studies (with dedicated support from academic institutions/specialized consultancies), in order to gather evidence around technical challenges faced by the WASH Cluster partners. Capacity building of WASH
partners is another key element to improve the quality of the response, and training delivery to WASH partners in specific topics has been core to the cluster. The Global WASH Cluster has supported Myanmar in the design of a Quality and Accountability System, which will support the quality of the response and the level of accountability to affected populations.

On the development front, UNICEF continued to play a leadership role in the Myanmar WASH sector in 2019, supporting sector policy, strategy and guideline development, jointly hosting the sector coordination working group meetings at national and sub-national levels and coordinating the WASH humanitarian response as lead agency of the WASH Cluster. UNICEF’s role in the WASH sector has helped to shape the WASH agenda at the national level and encourage the expansion of resources and improvement of approaches that will be needed to meet the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP: 2018-2030) and SDGs by 2030.

In Indonesia, UNICEF-supported humanitarian WASH response to the Sulawesi and Lombok earthquakes and results achieved include the (1) establishment of functional WASH Cluster coordination systems in Central Sulawesi at both provincial and district levels during the emergency response period, followed by the reactivation of WASH task groups for continuation of the function with a focus on emergency recovery planning, (2) provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities reaching over 239,000 (water) and 303,000 (sanitation) people respectively, and (3) distribution of 18,889 hygiene and dignity kits and 40,000 school sanitation kits together with hygiene messaging. Given a growing need for strengthening emergency preparedness, UNICEF provided capacity building support to government – strengthening a national community-led sanitation and hygiene programme adopted for emergency response. Furthermore, UNICEF developed three contingency Programme Cooperation Agreements (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Indonesia Red Cross (PMI) and Yayasan Kemanusiaan Muslim Indonesia). Preparation of a letter of understanding with PMI is underway for Emergency WASH stock prepositioning in their warehouses in strategic locations.

In the Philippines, UNICEF continued to play a key role in driving the WASH Cluster at the national level, and in supporting convening of the cluster members for the development of the WASH Cluster Strategic Plan, as well as updating of the scenario-based contingency plans and supporting coordination and information management during actual emergency responses. As a result, the government was able to respond timely to some of the disasters with in-country capacity and limited international assistance.

System Strengthening, Capacity and Budget

A huge effort and investment were made in 2019 in terms of strengthening systems and enabling environment to ensure required skill sets to advance and scale up WASH initiatives in the region. In this regard, more than 500 key WASH sector professionals including government, I/NGOs and UNICEF staff were capacitated through EAPRO led trainings and workshops on topics of emerging interest including i) Sanitation and Water for All Regional Meeting with
the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership and the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), ii) Water for Women Symposium with DFAT, iii) Joint UNICEF/WHO Missions on JMP and Safely Managed Sanitation, iv) WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange event in the Philippines, v) Joint Training Programme in Singapore on "Leaving No One Behind and Sustainable WASH", vi) Joint EAPRO/Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) Sanitation Expo and learning meeting in China, vii) Joint WASH and climate change regional meeting, viii) WASH Knowledge Management Training, ix) SDG 6 baseline and target setting workshop in Bangkok, x) ASWAll two countries review meeting in Cambodia.

Policy and Strategy

Cambodia supported the completion of the costing and financing gap analysis of the Rural WASH National Action Plan 2019-2023. The DPRK supported the development of the first ever five-year costed National WASH Sector Implementation Strategy.

In Indonesia, UNICEF provided high-level support to the government in leading discussions toward the next Sector Ministers’ meeting (Sanitation Water for All) to be held in Indonesia in 2021. UNICEF also provided support to the Ministry of Health to conduct the second Sanitasi Total Berbasis Masyarakat (Community-based Total Sanitation) reward to the districts/cities with best innovation in achieving and sustaining ODF status in 2019. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of National Development Planning or National Development Planning Agency in hosting the National Sanitation Conference (KSAN) in December 2019 that included support and inputs from the global JMP team and from WASH PD. In Mongolia, Water Safety Plans have been approved/updated in 77 per cent (48/62) communities (soums) of three provinces. The Philippines has launched the Phased Approach to Sustainable Sanitation (PhATSS) policy approved by the Department of Health and Myanmar has drafted the National Rural Sanitation Policy and Costed Implementation Plan (2019-2030) and rural water supply technical manuals and guidelines for verification/validation of a water and sanitation programme. PNG demonstrated strong focus in strengthening the national enabling environment as a successful foundation of the European Union-funded WASH programme. Notable results include the establishment of the first ever WASH management information system (MIS) for PNG. The WASH MIS is designed in mWater, an open source mobile data collection and management system used by the water, sanitation and hygiene sector across the world. UNICEF strengthened the WASH MIS management and data collection capacity through training of the 24 government and civil society organization functionaries as master trainers on the use and management of mWater, a web-based platform for PNG WASH MIS, and generated evidence through the completion of a WASH baseline and knowledge, attitudes and practice study. The study findings will inform the social and behaviour change communication strategy, currently under development. In Timor-Leste, UNICEF WASH support focused on providing a strong enabling environment through commitment in various ways including training of policy makers on SDG 6 monitoring and implementation of sanitation policy.
Box 3. UNICEF-Water.org Partnership for achieving universal sanitation in the Philippines

The Government of the Philippines has a National Sanitation Plan which aspires to achieve safely managed sanitation for all and includes actions to achieve zero open defecation (ZOD) status as a first milestone. UNICEF has worked with the Department of Health (DOH) to develop programming approaches to reach these targets. In 2019, the DOH issued the Philippines Approach to Sustainable Sanitation (PhATSS) policy and guidelines, based on pilot programmes developed with support from UNICEF, the World Bank, and sector NGOs. The UNICEF and Water.org partnership, signed in 2018 and renewed in 2019, establishes mechanisms for government and private actors to work together in support of these goals.

“Through the partnership with Water.org, we’ve been able to facilitate relationships between local governments and MFIs that are offering WASH loans, so that households are empowered to act on the triggered demand for improved WASH services. This not only helps individual households gain access to improved sanitation facilities, but has also helped contribute to entire communities achieving open defecation free status.”

Louise Maule, Chief of WASH, UNICEF Philippines

Ensuring credit is available to meet demand

For people living in poverty, a major bottleneck to sanitation access is not being able to afford the financial investment for a hygienic, disaster-resilient toilet. Water.org’s WaterCredit programme encourages microfinance institutions (MFIs) to develop dedicated loan products for water and sanitation, offering low-income households a mechanism to bridge their finance gap and implement their own solutions.

Integrating information about the availability of affordable loans into behaviour change programming is helping to transform increased demands for safe water and sanitation into confirmed and sustained behaviour change:

• There has been a substantial rise in WASH loans in partnership areas. MFIs have reported a 130 per cent increase in WASH lending, suggesting that the combination of sanitation and hygiene promotion and availability of finance leads to greater loan uptake and accelerated impact.

• Strong linkages and collaboration between local government actors and MFIs have developed. MFI staff are actively engaging in council meetings for the first time, and the two actors are establishing direct referral systems. This suggests that the connections initiated by UNICEF and Water.org are being formalized within local communities and will continue into the future on their own accord.
UNICEF support also centred on participation to strategic global WASH platforms, like SWA, setting the ground for sanitation beyond ODF; and making steady strides towards achievement of ODF targets. In Viet Nam, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for the issuance of the national guidelines for implementing the National Programme of Water Safety Plan in rural areas, contributing to improved water in rural communities.

Budget and Financing Work, including Leveraging P4FC

The thematic fund has contributed to financing most of the WASH operations in the region. Continued DFID funding for Cambodia and Myanmar until 2022 will help improve access and strengthen country national monitoring systems.

EAPRO is also utilizing AUS$2.5 million obtained from DFAT for strengthening SDG 6 monitoring in the region. EAPRO also explored collaboration and partnership with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and submitted WASH proposals for funding support from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for Indonesia. Support was given to the Indonesia country office for structuring and leveraging Zakat funds for water and sanitation programming in two provinces. In addition, two concept notes were submitted to DFAT on WASH programming in climate change and an additional one on innovative financing. WASH has been supporting China, DPRK, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam for new funding opportunities.

In Indonesia, UNICEF commissioned a scoping study on public financing for safely managed sanitation to support an analysis of domestic resource mobilization at the district level. A systematic review of Zakat as an alternative financing option for reducing inequality in access to sustainable WASH services was conducted in 2019. At the national level, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Badan Amil Zakat Nasional for increasing impact of zakat funds by supporting UNICEF programmes, mainly WASH. In providing some financing options for local governments to reduce the financial gap for urban communities, UNICEF conducted a research on domestic finance mobilization. UNICEF also supported an assessment to promote the role of the private sector in supporting the WASH SDGs agenda. These assessments will help understand the financing landscape better for filling the WASH SDG 6 budget gap.

In China, public-private partnerships were promoted through the engagement of the private sector in providing innovative technologies for UNICEF-supported pilots. This support was extended to the co-organization of a joint ROSA and EAPRO Shanghai Sanitation exhibition with more than 100 exhibitors and 16 countries participating.

In Myanmar, a community-managed household water meter connection system initiated by UNICEF has been replicated and scaled up by the Department of Rural Development, which has also allocated US$17.2 million for 2019/2020 for water supply projects to cover more than 1.5 million people from 2,169 communities.

In Cambodia, UNICEF facilitated an inter-ministerial exchange between the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Rural Development on the WASH budget and supported Cambodia’s
participation in the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership with commitments expressed in the sector ministers meeting in April 2019. To address the growing risks of climate change impacting drinking water quality, safety and security, Cambodia initiated water safety planning linked to a commune investment plan and supported 18 social franchise bottled water systems for easy and sustainable water supply to the communes along with pro-poor household piped system connection subsidies using the national ID-poor system, which is a very innovative approach in addressing issues of inequity in WASH.

In the Philippines, with UNICEF support, the government launched the PhATSS policy and in areas where the PhATSS programme modelling is more advanced, the pretesting of ‘May K Kami’ materials to promote improved sanitation continued alongside innovative programming approaches such as facilitating coordination between microfinance institutions and local government units to increase access to household financing for water and sanitation; and providing technical assistance to selected municipalities for septage management planning and feasibility studies. Six provincial and 32 municipal WASH Councils allocated WASH budgets for programme scale-up.

In coordination with USAID, Water.org and the Department of Health, an output-based blended financing model for household sanitation has been developed. Assistance was also provided to Department of Health to develop a PHP 196.5 million proposal for the 2020 Budget to pilot the programming model in selected provinces. Although this was initially rejected, a last-minute allocation of PHP 350 million was finally approved by the Senate – a record budget for sanitation programming for the Department of Health. See more details on the partnership in Box 3.

Advocacy

In Indonesia, UNICEF provided high-level political and learning support to the national government that led to their successful bidding to host the next Sector Ministers’ meeting (Sanitation Water for All) to be held in Indonesia in 2021. UNICEF also provided support to the Ministry of Health to conduct the second Sanitasi Total Berbasis Masyarakat (Community-based Total Sanitation) award in October 2019. This event rewarded the districts/cities with best innovation in achieving and sustaining ODF status. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of National Development Planning or National Development Planning Agency in hosting the National Sanitation Conference in December 2019 that included support and inputs from the global JMP team and WASH Programme Division.

In DPRK, UNICEF collaborated with the Swiss Development Cooperation to support the government and mobilize the sector in advancing the agenda of safely managed sanitation services and elimination of virtual open defecation in the country through a sanitation forum. This event ensured increased commitment of the government to move towards safely managed sanitation.

Data, Evidence and Knowledge Management

To foster thought leadership and promote evidence-based advocacy, planning and
financing, EAPRO WASH led several studies/evaluations in the areas of emerging interest including i) Formative Evaluation of EAPRO Regional WASH programme jointly with Evaluation team, ii) Country Capacity Assessment on WASH in Emergencies and Resilience, iii) Partnerships and Private Sector Engagement in WASH, iv) WASH assessment in the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and inputs for ASEAN WASH Declaration, v) Baseline Study on DFID-funded ASWAII programme in Cambodia and Myanmar, vi) Regional Results Report Overview 2014 – 2017, vii) Assessment of WASH Climate Resilience Framework implementation in the region, viii) Scoping of Sports for Development initiative in the region, and ix) Financing in WASH, etc. These studies are informing the regional office and the country offices on new data and evidence gaps and in adopting evidence-based programming in the region.

The WASH team also contributed to the Regional Flagship Publication on Southeast Asia Complementary Feeding Framework and Expert Consultation Report with a dedicated chapter on the “Overview of the draft global complementary feeding action framework for WASH”. After a successful completion of the 2018 training session in Singapore on “leaving no one behind”, EAPRO WASH continued its partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore in advancing WASH globally and the training in the same topic was offered to more than 30 participants. This has been instrumental in expanding global knowledge and understating the SDG 6 ambition and UNICEF’s approach to addressing WASH issues globally.

At the regional level, in 2019, EAPRO also organized the first ever regional training on WASH knowledge management and provided a Knowledge Management Challenge Grant to five countries to support knowledge product development for better documentation of learnings and success stories. For strengthening knowledge exchange and learning, EAPRO has initiated for the first time, the development of Regional WASH newsletters and three issues were released in 2019 with continuity in 2020. The WASH programme also contributed to many global knowledge products: Water under Fire; Guidelines on Market Based Sanitation; WASH climate change business cases, etc.

For capacity enhancement and learning, the regional office organized together with DFAT a joint learning for Sanitation and Water for All global partnership and Water for Women programme with more than 200 attendees. The event was followed up by a two-day training on SDG 6 target setting and monitoring that included participants from the water ministries as well as national statistics office to integrate SDG 6 monitoring in the national systems. Also, the first ever WASH climate change workshops brought together more than 50 participants from UNICEF country offices and other UN agencies leading to enhanced understanding of the climate change impact on the lives of children and their families and efforts made so far to curb the impact.

At the country level, in PNG, UNICEF supported the government in the establishment of the first ever WASH MIS for Papua New Guinea which is designed in mWater, an open source mobile data collection and management
system used by the water, sanitation and hygiene sector across the world. In PNG, mWater system is being used by the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, UNICEF and I/NGO partners to collect and manage district level data associated with the rollout of the national WASH Policy. Further, to ensure effective functioning and countrywide expansion of the WASH access information for households and public institution, UNICEF strengthened the WASH MIS management and data collection capacity through training of the 24 government and civil society organization functionaries as master trainers on the use and management of mWater, a web-based platform for the PNG WASH MIS.

In **DPRK**, UNICEF PME and WASH Sections worked with the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Urban Management, the Ministry of Public Health and the Education Commission to complete the pilot collection of routine monitoring data on households, schools and health facilities using globally comparable WASH in SDG indicators, by leveraging an existing government structure and mechanism in nine UNICEF-supported convergence counties. For the first time, WASH baseline data with globally comparable SDG indicators are now available for all 18,848 households in one convergence county, and for all educational institutions and health facilities in the nine convergence counties. Availability of reliable data has greatly facilitated focusing of the UNICEF WASH programme to target the most vulnerable children and women in 2020. This was possible due to the participation of high-level officials from the concerned ministries and department in the EAPRO-led regional training on SDG 6 target setting and monitoring workshop in March 2019.

In **Indonesia**, UNICEF has been working with Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Religious Affairs to strengthen and analyze the indicators used in the Educational Management Information System to reflect the reporting needs of SDG Goal 4a on safe learning environment for children. The latest data analysis on WASH in Schools for primary and secondary education shows improvement of access to basic water from 65,69 per cent in 2016 to 78,52 per cent in 2018 and access to basic sanitation increased from 34,12 per cent in 2016 to 43,81 per cent in 2018. These data are available online and can be accessed through a dashboard.

In **Myanmar**, UNICEF succeeded in ensuring the inclusion of SDG 6 indicators in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan which necessitated the development of monitoring systems and robust datasets to track progress over time. To address this issue, UNICEF advocated and provided technical support for embedding safely managed drinking water and sanitation services questionnaires into the 2019 inter-census nationwide survey. The findings will provide important baseline information and targets for addressing safely managed WASH services in the country.

In the **Pacific**, UNICEF has strengthened the capacity of national statistics offices and ministries of health in **Tonga** and in **Samoa** through training on the water quality module of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which provides valuable data on WASH-related indicators. With support from UNICEF and Australia’s DFAT, the Government of **Solomon Islands** started collecting
WASH-related data in 335 healthcare facilities in November 2019, providing important baseline information for future interventions. Addressing a fragmented WASH policy environment in Fiji, UNICEF financed a policy consultant to support the development of a water and sewage act.

Cross-sectoral Highlights

WASH programmes are aligned with programming efforts in other sectors to support outcomes across the SDGs. Together with global partners like GIZ and Save the Children, an International Learning Exchange on WASH in Schools (Wins ILE) was held in the Philippines led by the Department of Education, which brought together more than 300 participants from 17 countries in the Asia Pacific region to take stock of the progress and challenges on WinS including financing. For addressing malnutrition issues, UNICEF also provided strategic technical support in developing multi-sectoral nutrition and WASH plans and strengthening subnational capacities to plan, deliver and monitor quality services even during emergencies in some countries in the region.

Gender

WASH lays a great emphasis to ensure that the WASH needs of men and women and boys and girls are specifically addressed in all UNICEF-supported WASH interventions. In 2019, specific gender-responsive WinS system results were achieved by eight countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. Some of the notable gender results are as follows:

In Cambodia, UNICEF worked across sectors in schools and health facilities with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Health at national and sub-national levels on menstrual health and hygiene awareness, and gender-sensitive WASH facility development in 29 primary and five pre-primary schools. Indicators on Minimum Requirements for WASH in Schools were introduced in the new Education Strategic Plan, and the School Health Department continues to provide in-service training, with UNICEF support, to school directors on the star ranking.

In China, WinS projects were implemented in 70 schools of three provinces to ensure that 18,515 boys and 16,990 girls have access to gender-appropriate and inclusive sanitation facilities and practice good hygiene. Latrine construction was completed in 46 schools, of which seven schools received financial support from UNICEF, benefitting a total of 27,913 school children. This included 13,321 girls who can now access gender-sensitive toilets with lockable doors that offer privacy and enable girls to properly manage their menstrual hygiene. Fifty-six county and school level education officials (38 males and 18 females), 70 school principals (65 males and 5 females) and 210 school teachers (86 males and 124 females) from project schools were trained on WASH facilities management and maintenance and hygiene promotion, including MHH, through four training workshops. In Indonesia, UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Culture developed a WinS guideline which was socialized to 900 primary schools with government funding. The socialization included MHH sessions where key gender challenges were
addressed. UNICEF also supported MoH in publishing MHH communication strategy.

**Myanmar** supported the implementation of WASH in Schools in six states/regions with the construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 22 schools, including gender-segregated toilets and private washing facilities for girls to facilitate MHH. A total of 356 schools have been reached covering 43,891 school children (22,384 girls). This included provision of MHH facilities in 135 schools reaching an estimated 10,186 girls. Three state level training of trainer events have been undertaken to build direct government-led implementation capacity of the Three Star Approach across six states and regions. These trainings have been cascaded to more than 1,300 teachers (1,040 females) and parent-teacher association members and course materials refined/adapted for future scale up.

The **Pacific Islands** has supported the provision of gender-segregated WASH facilities (with locks and sanitary bins) and supplies in schools and healthcare facilities and partnered with NGOs to lead education awareness on MHH. A study on the needs of adolescent girls with disabilities for WinS was undertaken in **Fiji** to identify innovative pathways to narrow inequities and improve WASH in special schools. In Fiji, 240 male and 373 female teachers from 161 schools were trained on WinS using the Three Star Approach. The training emphasized the needs of adolescent girls around MHH; and reporting on WASH data through the Fiji Education Management Information System. The training contributed to improved reporting and reductions in the number of ‘zero star’ schools, from 95 in 2018 to 48 as of July 2019. UNICEF also leveraged support from the OneFund for **Kiribati** to improve WASH facilities in five healthcare centers in Temana, Makin and Arorae. In **PNG**, WASH plans were developed in four provinces for improving WASH services in 200 schools and 36 health centers and hygiene promotion in surrounding 800 communities ensuring access of more than 40,000 school children to age-appropriate, inclusive, accessible and gender-segregated WASH facilities, including menstrual health and hygiene rooms (and incinerators for sanitary waste) for schools and health centers.

**Partnerships Alliances**

WASH systematically engaged with private sectors as part of a “Sanitation Expo and Learning” event in **China** for leveraging private sectors contributions in advancing SDG 6. The international expo with private sector companies exhibited their WASH products and technologies to the government, NGOs, and the media from 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and helped foster information exchange on new and emerging WASH innovations and products for advancing safely managed sanitation in the country as well as in the region at large.

**Indonesia** has an in-country partnership with the Musim Mas Group for promoting WASH4Work among the palm-oil workers and the **Philippines** has an MOU with Water.org for mobilizing micro-credit to marginalized households for WASH services. **Indonesia** and **Cambodia** are undertaking sanitation market assessments to understand sanitation businesses and their contribution in scaling up sanitation access, particularly in the hard to reach areas. **DPRK, Myanmar** and the **Philippines**, are supported in
documenting and engaging with existing private sectors in the three areas of WASH for Work. The regional office is providing technical support and assistance in the market shaping assessment and is developing a catalogue to support countries’ sanitation market strategy. In addition, the WASH programme and Private Sector Fundraising and Partnerships division are working towards promoting the sanitation supply chain [GO-let] online sanitation system.

In the Pacific, the WASH programme has demonstrated good results with strengthened resource mobilization capacity and strategic partnerships. Collaborations with existing development partners such as the European Union, New Zealand, Australia, the University of North Carolina, International Water Centre, the Pacific Community, World Health Organization, the University of the South Pacific, the Institute of Environmental Science and Research and Akvo, etc. led to evidence generation, financial resource mobilization and working collaboratively to increase the number of children in the Pacific with access to affordable and equitable WASH services at scale.

EAPRO WASH has also commissioned a study to assess private sector partnerships and financing options to scale up sanitation coverage in the region. WASH has also engaged in strategic discussion with the ASEAN Secretariat towards the adoption of a WASH declaration. The WASH declaration will help in the following areas: i) addressing open defecation issues particularly in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and remaining countries with high level of open defecation; ii) water safety programming and iii) WASH data harmonization with the SDGs. This will be followed up in 2020.
C. Financial Analysis

In 2019, EAPRO WASH planned a total of US$1.2 million out of which US$894,820 was spent for regional level actions and technical support to countries.

Table 1: Planned and Funded WASH EAPRO Programme 2019 (in US dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Funding Types</th>
<th>Budget Planned 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OUTPUT 5.7: UNICEF EAPR has strengthened capacity to design and implement gender responsive, equity focused WASH programmes that deliver results for the most disadvantaged children at scale</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTPUT 6.7: EAPR has strengthened evidence, partnerships and resource mobilization capacity to improve WASH outcomes.</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>860,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources- Regular (add ORE: Other Resources- Emergency, if applicable) 2 Planned budget for ORR (and ORE, if applicable) does not include estimated recovery cost (only programmable amounts).

Table 2: Total Funding Received and Sources of Funding - Financial Situation (2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Fund received in 2019 in US$</th>
<th>Allocated (2019)</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Available Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>76,952</td>
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<td>SC170534 (DFID ASWAIII)</td>
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<td>SC189906 (Thematic)</td>
<td>538,581</td>
<td>470,465</td>
<td>68,116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC1899060006 (Japan Natcom)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC1899060060 (Swedish Natcom)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC180673 (DFAT)</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>44,831</td>
<td>45,169</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>894,820</td>
<td>305,180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WASH Expenses in 2019**

The following tables provide details on the WASH expenses in the year 2019.

**Table 3: Planned and Funded WASH EAPRO programme 2019 (in US dollars)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Budget Planned 2019</th>
<th>Expenditures 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTPUT 5.7:</strong> UNICEF EAPR has strengthened capacity to design and implement gender responsive, equity focused WASH programmes that deliver results for the most disadvantaged children at scale</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>76,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>97,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTPUT 6.7:</strong> EAPR has strengthened evidence, partnerships and resource mobilization capacity to improve WASH outcomes.</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>860,000</td>
<td>720,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>894,820</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources - Regular (add ORE: Other Resources - Emergency, if applicable) ² Planned budget for ORR (and ORE, if applicable) does not include estimated recovery cost (only programmable amounts).

**Table 4: Details Expenditure 2019 by Cost Categories (Front Insight by Outputs)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses by Cost Category</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Resources</td>
<td>76,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.01 Water</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.02 Sanitation</td>
<td>76,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other resources</td>
<td>817,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.01 Water</td>
<td>54,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.02 Sanitation</td>
<td>763,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>894,820</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Budget Forecast for 2020

Table 5 provides details on the planned budget for the year 2020.

#### Table 5: Planned Budget for 2020 (in US dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Budget Planned 2020</th>
<th>Available Funding</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OUTPUT 5.7: UNICEF EAPR has strengthened capacity to design and implement gender responsive, equity focused WASH programmes that deliver results for the most disadvantaged children at scale</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTPUT 6.7: EAPR has strengthened evidence, partnerships and resource mobilization capacity to improve WASH outcomes.</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>790,000</td>
<td>790,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,040,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,040,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. Challenges

SDG 6 targets universal and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030, and stipulates that water and sanitation systems must be safely managed to ensure sustainability, quality of drinking water and the safe disposal of excreta. This ambitious expansion of the Millennium Development Goals will require redoubled efforts and persistence in terms of political commitment and financing for achieving SDG 6.

Poor hygiene, open defecation and lack of access to safe water and sanitation systems are the key drivers of child mortality and morbidity. Stunting, caused in part by poor sanitation and open defecation, prevents children from achieving their full potential, while low WASH coverage in schools impedes their right to an education. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poor access to WASH, burdened both by the drudgery of fetching water and the consequences of inadequate WASH in schools and health care facilities. In emergency situations, the negative impact on women and children is even more severe.

In many countries in the region, the gains achieved over the Millennium Development Goal period are increasingly threatened by relentless regional and global crises and disasters imposed by climate change and natural disasters. These emergencies, ranging from conflict to displacement in Myanmar to droughts in Cambodia and Viet Nam, to the devastating volcanic eruptions and seasonal storms in the Philippines, have had a devastating impact on the lives of the most vulnerable populations.

The SDG targets for water, sanitation and hygiene present a range of challenges for the WASH sector actors. Key among these is sector financing. At the macro level, preliminary estimates show that tens of billions of dollars in new funding will be needed every year to meet targets and achieve SDG 6. Overseas development assistance and other traditional sources of funding will not be sufficient to meet the targets. Identifying new funding sources, along with innovative financing mechanisms such as blended funding and micro-financing arrangements, will be critical.
E. Future Workplan 2020

The Regional Office Management Plan 2018 – 2021 is aimed at extending and consolidating the East Asia Pacific Regional Office’s and Country Offices’ capacities to significantly impact child-focused agendas, and actively engage in high-level influence to shape how decisions are made and where budgets are formulated, both vital for our ability to deliver results for children through the UNICEF Strategic Plan, the Gender Action Plan and the Regional Headlines in the Sustainable Development Goals era. The plan reflects EAP’s commitment to three mutually reinforcing Headlines and Results areas that are fully aligned to the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021: Early Moments Matter; Children Grow in Safe and Sustainable Environments and Adolescents’ Potential Unleashed.

Under the new Regional Office Management Plan, WASH is an integral part of at least two of the three regional priorities, i.e. i) Early Moments Matter and ii) Children Grow in Safe and Sustainable Environment.

The main focus of EAPRO support in 2020 will be as follows:

**Enabling environment:** In 2020 and beyond, WASH will continue to work within the logical structure of the five building blocks for strengthening the enabling environment as defined in the ‘Strengthening Enabling Environment for WASH’ guidelines. Many countries in the region have conducted WASH bottleneck analysis and UNICEF will use the latest version of the WASH bottleneck analysis tool and other techniques to analyze constraints within each building block, identify solutions and develop costed action plans to address bottlenecks in the remaining countries. The regional office will engage with country offices through these processes that will be conducted jointly with governments and other partners using existing collaboration mechanisms such as joint sector reviews.

**Working inter-sectorally:** The joint inter-sectoral work will include modelling and expanding Joint WASH Nutrition initiatives using Joint TOC and WASH Nutrition Toolkit, strengthening of WinS at scale including roll out of the MHH Period Tracker app in additional countries, supporting WASH in Health Care Facilities assessment, WASH-Gender reviews and equity focus in WASH Programme and integration of WASH in Communication for Development and Technology for Development Initiatives. All of these will be the priority of WASH EARPO.

**Leveraging resources for WASH:** WASH will continue to mobilize new funding sources and develop innovative financing techniques while further engaging with the regional financing institutions, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international financial institutions and private sector actors. UNICEF staff and partners will be trained on exploring financing options and develop country budget briefs and advocacy papers for increased domestic financing in the WASH sector.

**Sanitation campaigns and market-based sanitation** in the game plan countries including Cambodia, China, Indonesia and the Philippines will constitute our major support in countries in 2020 for accelerating “End Open Defecation” momentum adopting a market-based approach to sanitation.
**Climate-resilient WASH:** WASH will support the priority country offices in the region to expand UNICEF’s position in the climate change space and develop climate related funding proposals, benefiting from UNICEF’s approval to obtain “Readiness” funding. Priorities will include reinforcing the promotion of “green” and “climate smart” solutions in addressing WASH service delivery in households, schools and institutions.

**Urban:** WASH will continue to increase its support to country offices’ programmes in urban areas, expanding and adapting key programming approaches for towns and cities (including CATS and handwashing promotion), while also developing new urban-specific approaches, including through public-private partnerships and other collaborative agreements with companies.

**Private sector:** WASH will continue to expand its collaboration with private sector partners in a number of capacities, going beyond funding and supply procurement relationships. The focus of going forward will be on engaging private sector actors to address product- and financing-related priorities in communities (such as the partnership with LIXIL Corporation on sanitation technology and microfinance institutions).

**Youth and WASH:** In 2020, greater emphasis will be placed in engaging with the youth and adolescents and the WASH youth innovation challenge will be materialized in partnership with Singapore Water Academy and National University of Singapore in 2020 with the aim of engaging youth in developing innovative solutions to promote sustainable WASH initiatives in the region.

**Innovation:** Partnership with Go-let will be explored with other private companies and GO will be online. WASH will support new innovative initiatives including the use of new technology for real-time monitoring, use of the innovative “Period Tracker” app and market shaping strategies for addressing WASH in regular development and humanitarian contexts.

**Knowledge management:** WASH will continue to promote knowledge management and learning through region-led studies, assessments, evaluation, data and evidence generation and use in advocacy and policy briefs/changes; support country offices to strengthen knowledge management, innovations and data for children initiatives through regional network meetings, learning and exchange events, webinar series, newsletter and documentation of field notes and best practices for organization-wide learning and scale up.
Annex: Human Interest and News Stories

Preparation and Cooperation Bring a Community together in Timor-Leste

A UNICEF project to bring water to a village in the mountains of Bura is demonstrating the power of community action.

Close to 400 people who live in the small mountainous village of Bura in Timor-Leste’s Ermera Municipality have never had a basic supply of piped water. The ingredients that go into each day’s meals here can’t be properly washed, and there isn’t enough water to mop the floors of the three classrooms in the village school, known as EBF No.1281 Passa-Hei.

A ‘shower’ in Bura consists of a splash of water on the face, but only if a family member has been able to fill a bucket at the often-dry stream that meanders through this remote part of the country. And because there is no water supply in the village, the school does not even have any toilets, which means children have to travel home or go in the surrounding bushes.

“At the moment, there is no water, so we have to travel far to find some,” says Casimiro Pereira dos Santos, President of EBF No.1281 Passa-Hei’s Parents and Teachers Association. “This is no life for us. We lose time having to do this each day.”

“Water is so important. Without it, we are not healthy. Our environment cannot be clean. We get sick,” he adds.

Unfortunately, the situation of the students at EBF No.1281 Passa-Hei is not uncommon in Timor-Leste. More than 40 per cent of the 1,362 schools across the country do not have access to an improved water source and close to 30 per cent do not have toilet facilities. Similarly, more than 30 per cent of rural households do not use improved drinking water sources, and more than 40 per cent of all households do not use improved sanitation facilities.
Some days, if these children and the rest of Bura’s residents are lucky, some water may flow down to their village from another community higher up the mountain, which does have a water system in place. If limited water is available, however, and the elevated community uses it all, Bura is left dry.

Fortunately, the situation is changing. A UNICEF-supported project in Bura to connect the village and school to a water source is giving the community hope and spurring collective action.

The source that will feed the community’s gravity-fed water supply system is located some four kilometers from the village, up the side of a steep and rugged mountain. Roads are being built just to get there, but progress has been slow due to access difficulties. As a result, construction of the water system has taken longer than expected, as supplies have had to be carried up by hand.

While these obstacles have undoubtedly prolonged the myriad challenges faced by the people of Bura who live without water, it has also highlighted an incredible display of community preparedness, resilience and cooperation. Many community members, from village elders to youths, have been working in shifts to haul construction materials up the mountain by hand.

The village has also rallied to establish administrative and technical groups to ensure the sustainability of the water supply system when it is completed.

The project is resulting in other areas of progress for the village, too, which now boasts its first female water supply system technician. Marcelina dos Santos Soares is 18 years old and is receiving training from UNICEF’s implementing partner Haburas Ita Moris (HIM) and the government’s National Directorate of Water Supply (DNSA) on the various tools used for maintenance of the water system, how to ‘trade’ pipes (create ridges that form joins), and on the names of various fittings, so she can place orders in the future.

“I am supporting the construction at the intake point and afterwards I will work on the pipes,” Marcelina says. “After my
training, I will be able to fix any problems in the water supply system. I am happy I was selected, because I want to learn all about the system. Men usually do things like this, but this time, I am.”

“Fixing and maintaining the system can be done by us, so that in the future we do not have to rely on the government to help with issues that we can take care of ourselves,” says Casimiro, who is also the chief of the Water Management Group or GMF.

When the GMF group was established, Bura’s residents also set up a community treasury, where each household will contribute one dollar a month to go towards the maintenance of the water supply system. Once the water reaches the village, the treasury coordinator will collect the money, deposit it into a bank account and draw upon it when work and repairs are required.

“When a tap or socket breaks, we can use the money to buy spare parts to fix it,” says Bendita da Silva, the GMF’s treasurer and the coordinator of one of the system’s taps. “Everyone is happy with the arrangement and is willing to contribute.”

The mobilization among Bura’s residents demonstrates a strong commitment to the sustainability of the water supply system, not least to prevent the various illnesses that can be caused by a lack of water and sanitation.

Diarrhoea is the second biggest cause of under-five deaths in Timor-Leste after pneumonia and is often a direct result of children consuming unsafe water and being exposed to unhygienic practices, such as unwashed foods and unwashed hands.

Proper maintenance of the water supply system will also help to ensure that Ermera Municipality maintains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, and the many health and nutrition benefits that go along with it.

“When the water comes, school feeding will become much healthier – the utensils can be cleaned, we can wash the ingredients, and students can wash their hands. We will also be able to clean our rooms and water our flowers,” says Domingos Soares, the EBF No.1281’s School Coordinator. “Each year our community is getting bigger, so we have to make the effort now to ensure our health in the future.”

Bura’s gravity-fed water system is one of six in Timor-Leste being constructed or rehabilitated with funding from Japan’s Ono City.

For more information, contact the UNICEF Office in Timor-Leste.

Domingos Soares, the School Coordinator at EBF No.1281 Passa-Hei, says his students’ lives and health will improve dramatically when water arrives to their village.
Regional Sanitation Expo and Learning in China

Celebrating the greatest increase in the use of toilets than in any other time in history in Shanghai.

UNICEF EAPRO and ROSA together with UNICEF China, Shanghai Landscaping & City Appearance Administrative Bureau and Shanghai Public Toilet Association co-hosted the first-ever joint Regional Sanitation Exposition and Workshop last 18-21 November 2019 in Shanghai, China. The event brought together more than 150 participants including governments, academia, chambers of commerce and industries, private companies, financing institutions and civil society organization from across 17 countries in the Asia and Pacific region to celebrate the sanitation revolution and successes being witnesses throughout the regions. It also reaffirmed an enhanced partnership with the private sectors for exploring innovative sanitation solutions to achieve SDG 6.2 and the safe management of human excreta.

UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, Ms. Jean Gough in her opening remarks at the Expo congratulated the Government of China and the participating countries for witnessing this historic moment of achieving greatest increase in the use of toilets in the past decade than in any other time in history with over 600 million people using toilets and abandoning open defecation and hundreds of millions more upgrading their toilets to make them better and safer. She reinforced the key message of how improved sanitation translates directly to child survival – especially for children under the age of five and called for increased attention of all concerned stakeholders to act in a collaborative way to address this preventable issue.

Globally, more than 600 million people practice open defecation which is a huge challenge to human health, dignity and civilization. During recent years, incredible efforts have been made by counties in this region to move people out of open defecation and to adopt improved sanitation and hygiene practices. Some of the outstanding progress and achievements shared by participants included: The tremendous progress made in Nepal; the “Toilet Revolution in China” and the “Swatch Bharat Mission Clean India campaign in India.” Amazing progress in reducing open defecation was also shared by Cambodia and Bangladesh providing a huge opportunity for countries to learn from the success stories of each other.

Despite all of the great efforts and results, data suggest that achieving universal access to even basic sanitation service by 2030 would require a doubling of the current annual rate of progress. The workshop specifically discussed how
countries can move up the sanitation ladder and sustain the gains made so far.

From the exchanges during the week, it was interesting to note that countries of the two regions are making great efforts in moving towards safely managed sanitation with four countries having national baselines on safely managed sanitation. It was also interesting to note from Mr. Wang Lei, Deputy Director General from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in China, that in some regions of western and central areas, safely managed sanitation should reach 100 per cent by 2020.

During the expo, China showcased some of the innovative sanitation technologies and solutions that cater to the “next generation” needs of individual households and public facilities to address the huge sanitation demand in China. Many of these developments are based on many years of research and innovation ranging from omni-processors, to water saving technologies and technologies suitable for cold and harsh climatic conditions. A visit to sanitation manufacturers in China also exposed the participants to a wide range of technological options and innovative solutions to meet the growing needs to address the safe management of human excreta at scale.

Beyond the technologies, the workshop focused on a number of issues including: changing social norms around sanitation for enhanced sustainability; global challenges of meeting the SDG 6; the role of private sector was discussed in which private sectors from the participating countries and China discussed collaboration with the governments and the stakeholders to scale up sanitation.

All participants also reaffirmed the need to continue learning from others; target inequities with smart financing; strengthen sanitation financing,
marketing and supply chain; explore and innovate appropriate technology options for various budgets and challenging conditions and promote systematic capacity building to contextualize affordable solutions to ensure human right to sanitation for all, particularly children.

Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, Associate Director WASH thanked all participants for their excellent contribution to the global knowledge on innovations in sanitation and stated that both the right skill sets and adequate financing will be key to ensuring “no one is left behind” with sustainable and inclusive WASH services.

Ms. Jean Gough championed the event with her expertise and guidance for accelerating WASH progress in the region and said that the WASH sector, while respecting the older generations, must lend a welcoming hand to the younger generations for bringing in context specific solutions to meet the SDG 6 ambition and vision.

All presentations from the event can be found [here](#).

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Anuradha Narayan at anarayan@unicef.org

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Delivering Clean Drinking Water for Children in DPR Korea

"Even when your hands are not dirty, wash it with soap and sufficient quantity of running water especially before meals and after using the toilet".

These were the words of student prefect Kim Dae Bong in his speech to school children at Myonggan Primary School during the celebration of Global Handwashing Day 2019. He highlighted the importance of clean drinking water and handwashing with soap in preventing deadly diseases like diarrhea, sharing the story of a time when he once got badly sick when he ate rice cake without washing hands after playing.

Thanks to a new water system powered only by gravity, about 16,000 people, eight nurseries and kindergartens, six schools and two health facilities including the county hospital now have access to safe and reliable piped drinking water.

Families, school children and health workers will no longer have to fetch water from shallow wells or walk a long distance to collect water.

As part of the celebrations, Dr. Myo-Zin Nyunt, UNICEF Representative in DPRK, along with Mr. Kim Chol Man, Director of Urban Management and Mr. Jang Dong Ho, Chairman of People’s Committee, inaugurated the UNICEF-supported Gravity Fed System built by the local community in Myonggan county in North Hamgyong Province.

The celebration was also used to increase awareness on the importance of handwashing with soap by the school children of Myonggan Primary School.

UNICEF DRPK aims to deliver safe drinking water to one million people by 2021 and has already delivered safe drinking water to over half a million people through rehabilitation and installation of longer-term new gravity fed systems. In mountainous countries with many springs and streams, gravity systems are a particularly cost-effective and convenient way of delivering water to families across the country.

According to the 2017 DPRK MICS, only 61 per cent of households in DPRK and 44 per cent of rural households have access to safely managed water. In seven out of 10 households without water, the burden of fetching water overwhelmingly falls on women and children, who spend at least 30 minutes per daily round trip carrying 10-20 liters of water. Further analysis of the MICS showed that the stunting prevalence among those children living in households without access to an improved drinking water source is 60 per cent higher than that of children living in households with access.
to an improved drinking water source. Reported episodes of diarrhea among children under five was 11 per cent.

Delivery of reliable and safe drinking water will improve the quality of life and reduce the risk of diarrhea, undernutrition and preventable deaths especially among more vulnerable newborns and children under five. The UNICEF DPRK WASH programme will continue to support the government in the delivery of safely managed drinking water services to another half a million people ensuring water quality while promoting safely managed sanitation services and hygiene practices in homes, nurseries, kindergartens, schools and health facilities while continuing to focus on current humanitarian priorities in the country.
Singapore–UNICEF WASH Partnership: Leaving No One Behind

UNICEF Executive Director lays emphasis on private sector and young entrepreneurship for affordable sanitation solutions.

“Local entrepreneurship around sanitation and affordable options is key to success towards the global drive on Ending Open Defecation,” said Ms. Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director in the closing ceremony of the UNICEF–Singapore Joint Training Programme on “Leaving no one behind: Sustainable WASH Services in a Rapidly Changing Context.”

“Involvement of young entrepreneurs in the sanitation supply chain will make the biggest difference in attaining sustainable sanitation as the system will be more operable and functional at the local level,” said Ms. Fore as this will lead to sustainability with operable solutions for operating and sustaining WASH services. She reaffirmed her support to the MOU signed by the Singapore Cooperation Programme and UNICEF for professional capacity building in water and sanitation in the ASEAN countries and globally.

Attending the closing ceremony as the special guest of honor, Ms. Fore listened to the presentation of country action plans on “Ending Open Defecation” and remarked on how small entrepreneurship could flourish around sanitation needs and provide local employment to thousands of women and young people, particularly those who are jobless in the villages. This is how the human capital around the sanitation issue will be built to scale up and sustain sanitation services.

Ms. Fore had a brief Q&A session with the participants on their key learnings from the training. When asked “How could UNICEF better support countries in scaling up sanitation?” she said that UNICEF could bring in global lessons and learning around sanitation and hygiene. She shared her experience from the Clean India Campaign on how sanitation was taken up by the local community as a business model offering a variety of technological options and choices to meet the growing needs and aspirations of people from different socio-economic quintiles.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, under the ambit of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, and the WASH section of UNICEF EAPRO successfully accomplished this training programme for the third successive year benefiting
around 80 WASH practitioners from around the globe at the Singapore Water Academy Public Utilities Board from 19–23 August 2019.

Upon being asked by the participants “How do we learn from the successes of Singapore and make it happen at the country level?”, Karen Hulshof, Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office of UNICEF said that South-South Collaboration is the platform for such learning. She said that UNICEF in collaboration with partners including the Sanitation and Water For All partnership, the World Bank, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore and others could facilitate learning in the sector through various ways including high-level meetings, workshops, regional moments of reflection, training and e-learning. She also highlighted the importance of documenting the lessons of both successes and failures for sustaining services and achieving results for children.

Earlier, Evariste Kouassi Komlan, Regional Adviser for WASH summarized the key reflections from the training that the data in water and sanitation sector remains critical towards the vision of leaving no one behind and that strong political will and human capability is needed to reform the sector for meeting the ambition of the SDGs. He also highlighted the need to address the growing challenges of water stress and shortages due to climate change and growing environmental risks and the need to broaden the sector horizon with private sector engagement, skills development, innovation and financing.

The broad aim of the training was to enhance the capacity of WASH professionals globally with the latest state-of-the-art knowledge and skills in ensuring universal and equitable access to WASH services towards the attainment of SDG 6. The world-class training was led by Singapore’s Water Agency, which is the training arm of the Public Utilities Board under Singapore’s Technical Cooperation Directorate and facilitated by high caliber trainers from both UNICEF and Singapore’s Water Academy.

The training brought together 32 participants including 13 female candidates from around 28 countries covering Europe, Latin America, East and West Africa, Asia and the Pacific region. The training was attended by some senior government officials and WASH practitioners from the ministries, departments, directorates, commissions overseeing WASH service delivery, regulations, planning, monitoring and financing and regulations.

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